



6262.0

Information Paper

Regional Labour Force Statistics

September 1997

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W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 3 OCT 1997

ABS Catalogue No. 6262.0

ISBN 0 642 23297 0

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
BSD	Brisbane Statistical Division
(C)	City
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGA	Local Government Area
(M)	Municipality
Pt	Part
(S)	Shire
SD	Statistical Division
SLA	Statistical Local Area
SR	Statistical Region

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This paper describes changes to become effective in September 1997 to a number of the existing regions used in the dissemination of labour force statistics derived from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The paper also provides general information on the availability of labour force statistics for those dissemination regions.

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the monthly LFS is to provide timely information on the labour market activity of the usually resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 and over. The statistics of most interest each month are the estimates of the number of employed and unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate. The rate of change in the number of people employed is a key indicator of the pace of economic growth. The unemployment rate (the percentage of the labour force represented by the unemployed) is the main measure of unutilised labour, and the participation rate (the percentage of the population in the labour force) reflects changes in total labour availability.

REGIONAL DATA

While the LFS is designed primarily to produce reliable estimates at the national, State and Territory levels, it also delivers estimates for a number of regions within States. There are 77 such regions across Australia.

The regions used for the publication of labour force statistics are based on standard geographical regions and are mostly identical in terms of spatial definitions with the Statistical Regions of *Statistical Geography: Volume 1 — Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 1996 Edition* (Cat. no. 1216.0). This information paper lists the labour force dissemination regions and details any differences between these and those used for the past five years. Dissemination regions were originally established following analyses of data from Censuses of Population and Housing, extensive consultation with major users of labour force data, consideration of regional population levels required to yield reliable estimates, and the need for consistency with other statistical collections.

A wide range of labour force data are available for each region. Regional data on labour force status and the unemployment and labour force participation rates are included in quarterly publications produced by the New South Wales, Victorian and Queensland Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) offices. Additional regional data for these and other states are available on request. Regional data are also available monthly, generally within one week of the release of *Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 6202.0). A charge may be made for this information. Inquiries should be made to any ABS office (see back of this publication for a list of telephone numbers).

REGIONAL ESTIMATES

VOLATILITY OF ESTIMATES

As with national and State estimates, regional labour force estimates are subject to sampling error. Unlike State level data, regional estimates are not constrained to conform to independently estimated population totals, and thus can be more volatile. Since estimates for regions are components of corresponding estimates at the State level – and are thus based on considerably smaller samples – they are subject to higher relative standard errors. Care should therefore be taken in the interpretation of regional estimates. Tables of standard errors for each region are available from ABS offices.

REVIEW OF REGIONS

A review of dissemination regions for labour force data was conducted during 1996. As a result, the boundaries for many regions have been changed to maintain consistency with the ASGC, and three new regions have been created in response to user requirements. The implementation of these changes will occur for the September 1997 survey, to coincide with the first month of the introduction of a new sample for the LFS. Data for the new regions will be released from October 1997. Details of the new sample, and the sample design and methodology of the survey, are given in *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design* (Cat. no. 6269.0).

BREAKS IN SERIES

As detailed above, regional labour force statistics are subject to significant volatility. Moreover, regional statistics are especially vulnerable at the time of reselection of the LFS sample, as the new sample selected to represent each region may have different characteristics to the old sample. Consequently, it can be expected that some regional series may suffer quite noticeable disturbances during the period September 1997 to April 1998, when the new LFS sample will be gradually implemented. In addition, the boundaries of some regions, especially in Victoria, have changed sufficiently for a possible break in series to occur. These breaks may occur because the total population of the region is significantly different, or because the region's character has changed markedly. Thus, regional estimates from September 1997 onwards may not be comparable with those before September 1997.

REGION CHANGES

Changes to dissemination regions for labour force data are detailed on the following pages. Minor changes to regions that have involved little or no population have been excluded, as these are not expected to affect labour force estimates or series. Changes to existing regions have been given in terms of comparison with the region's previous composition of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). For existing regions that have changed significantly, estimates of the net change to the size of the region's labour force (that is, employed and unemployed people) have also been provided. These estimates have been calculated by matching the old and new dissemination regions, using population counts from the 1996 Census of Population and Housing, and applying a national labour force participation rate of 63%.

CHANGES TO REGIONS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Estimates for the Statistical Region (SR) of Blacktown-Baulkham Hills will no longer be produced separately. Instead, Blacktown will be merged with Outer Western Sydney, and Baulkham Hills with Hornsby-Kuring-gai. This change is in response to user demand arising from the fact that Blacktown and Baulkham Hills have markedly different socio-economic characteristics.

Another change has been made to accommodate changes in sample design. Prior to September 1997, the Far West Statistical Division was excluded from the region comprising Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West SRs. From September 1997 onwards, the Far West SD will be included in this region. (Data for the region excluding Broken Hill will be available on request.) This inclusion of the Far West SD is expected to result in a net increase in the region's labour force of 12,000.

Also, in response to user demand, data for the South Eastern (NSW) SR combined with the Australian Capital Territory SR has recently been made available. This data is currently published in *Labour Force, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory* (Cat. no. 6201.1).

VICTORIA

A review of local government boundaries in Victoria resulted in the amalgamation of Local Government Areas (LGAs), which took effect from July 1995. This has involved some significant changes to SLAs and labour force dissemination regions. Many SLAs have completely or partly transferred from one dissemination region to another. Major changes to the SLA composition of regions are given below, with expected net changes to the population in the labour force in brackets:

- Outer Western Melbourne SR now includes part of Melbourne (C) - Remainder, but excludes part of Keilor (C). (Increase of 4,000)
- North Western Melbourne SR has been enlarged to include part of Keilor (C), but reduced to exclude part of Coburg (C). (Increase of 1,000)
- Inner Melbourne SR has been expanded to include part of Northcote (C), but reduced to exclude part of Melbourne (C) - Remainder. (Decrease of 5,000)
- North Eastern Melbourne SR now includes part of Coburg (C), but excludes part of Northcote (C). (No net change in labour force population expected)
- Inner Eastern Melbourne SR has been expanded to include Nunawading (C), a small part of Lilydale (S), and the majority of Oakleigh (C). (Increase of 70,000)
- Southern Melbourne SR now includes Chelsea (C) and part of Springvale (C), but excludes the majority of Oakleigh (C). (Increase of 3,000)
- Outer Eastern Melbourne SR has been reduced by Nunawading (C) and parts of Lilydale (S) and Sherbrooke (S). (Decrease of 50,000)
- South Eastern Melbourne SR now includes part of Sherbrooke (S), but excludes parts of Springvale (C) and Cranbourne (C). (Increase of 23,000)
- Mornington Peninsula SR has been enlarged by the inclusion of part of Cranbourne (C) but reduced by the exclusion of Chelsea (C). (Increase of 2,000)

CHANGES TO REGIONS *continued*

VICTORIA *continued*

- Barwon-Western District SR has been expanded to include Grenville (S) - Pt B and parts of Grenville (S) - Pt A and Buninyong (S) - Pt B. (Increase of 3,000)
- Central Highlands-Wimmera SR has been reduced to exclude Grenville (S) - Pt B, most of Donald (S), parts of Grenville (S) - Pt A and Buninyong (S) - Pt B, and part of Talbot and Clunes (S). The region now includes Karkaroc (S) and part of Kyneton (S). (Decrease of 3,000)
- Loddon-Campaspe-Mallee SR has been renamed Loddon-Mallee. Newly included in the region is most of Donald (S) and part of Talbot and Clunes (S); excluded are Karkaroc (S), Echuca (C), Rochester (S), Pyalong (S), part of Kyneton (S), and part of Melvor (S). (Decrease of 10,000)
- Goulburn-Ovens-Murray SR has been enlarged by the inclusion of Echuca (C), Rochester (S), Pyalong (S) and part of Melvor (S). (Increase of 10,000)

QUEENSLAND

An additional dissemination region has become available for the Gold Coast — Gold Coast City (Parts A and B) SR Sectors. This new region is formed from parts of the South and East BSD Balance SR and parts of the South and East Moreton SR. The latter regions have not changed and data will continue to be available for them.

The Brisbane City Outer Ring SR has been enlarged to include part of Carole Park, formerly of North and West BSD Balance SR. Consequently, estimates of the labour force in these regions are expected to change by 1,000.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth (C) - South has been transferred from the Central Metropolitan SR to the South East Metropolitan SR. Accordingly, the estimate of the population in the labour force in each region is likely to change by 13,000.

TASMANIA

The majority of SLAs in Tasmania have changed as a result of a major reorganisation of LGAs, which took effect from April 1993. However, only one dissemination region has been affected. This region, Greater Hobart SD, now also includes parts of Brighton (M) - Pt B, New Norfolk (M) - Pt B, Richmond (M) - Pt B, and Sorrell (M) - Pt B. It is expected that this will result in a net increase in the region's labour force population of 3,000.

DISSEMINATION REGIONS

REGIONS

The regions for which labour force data will be available from September 1997 are as follows:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Major Statistical Region

Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney Statistical Regions

Inner Sydney Statistical Region

Eastern Suburbs Statistical Region

St George-Sutherland Statistical Region

Canterbury-Bankstown Statistical Region

Fairfield-Liverpool and Outer South Western Sydney Statistical Regions

Fairfield-Liverpool Statistical Region

Central Western Sydney Statistical Region

Outer Western Sydney Statistical Region and Blacktown (C)

Lower Northern Sydney Statistical Region

Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Statistical Region and Baulkham Hills (A)

Northern Beaches Statistical Region

Gosford-Wyong Statistical Region

Balance of New South Wales Major Statistical Region

Hunter Statistical Region

Newcastle Statistical Region Sector

Illawarra and South Eastern Statistical Regions

Illawarra Statistical Region

Wollongong Statistical Region Sector

Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast Statistical Regions

Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West Statistical Regions

Murray-Murrumbidgee Statistical Region

Australian Capital Territory and South Eastern (NSW) Statistical Regions

DISSEMINATION REGIONS *continued*

VICTORIA

Melbourne Major Statistical Region

Outer Western Melbourne Statistical Region

North Western Melbourne Statistical Region

Inner Melbourne Statistical Region

North Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region

Inner Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region

Southern Melbourne Statistical Region

Outer Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region

South Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region

Mornington Peninsula Statistical Region

Balance of Victoria Major Statistical Region

Barwon-Western District Statistical Region

Central Highlands-Wimmera Statistical Region

Loddon-Mallee Statistical Region

Goulburn-Ovens-Murray Statistical Region

All Gippsland Statistical Region

DISSEMINATION REGIONS *continued*

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane Major Statistical Region

Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region

Brisbane City Outer Ring Statistical Region

South and East BSD Balance Statistical Region

North and West BSD Balance Statistical Region

Gold Coast City (Parts A and B) Statistical Region Sectors

Balance of Queensland Major Statistical Region

South and East Moreton Statistical Region

North and West Moreton Statistical Region

Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Region

Darling Downs-South West Statistical Region

Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Region

Northern-North West Statistical Region

Far North Statistical Region

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide Major Statistical Region

Northern Adelaide Statistical Region

Western Adelaide Statistical Region

Eastern Adelaide Statistical Region

Southern Adelaide Statistical Region

Balance of South Australia Major Statistical Region

Northern and Western SA Statistical Region

Southern and Eastern SA Statistical Region

DISSEMINATION REGIONS *continued*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth Major Statistical Region

Central Metropolitan Statistical Region

East Metropolitan Statistical Region

North Metropolitan Statistical Region

South West Metropolitan Statistical Region

South East Metropolitan Statistical Region

Balance of Western Australia Major Statistical Region

Lower Western WA Statistical Region

Remainder-Balance of WA Statistical Region

TASMANIA

Greater Hobart-Southern Statistical Region Sector

Greater Hobart Statistical Division

Northern Statistical Region Sector

Mersey-Lyell Statistical Region Sector

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Territory Statistical Region

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Australian Capital Territory Statistical Region

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2626200009971

ISBN 0 642 23297 0

RRP \$10.00